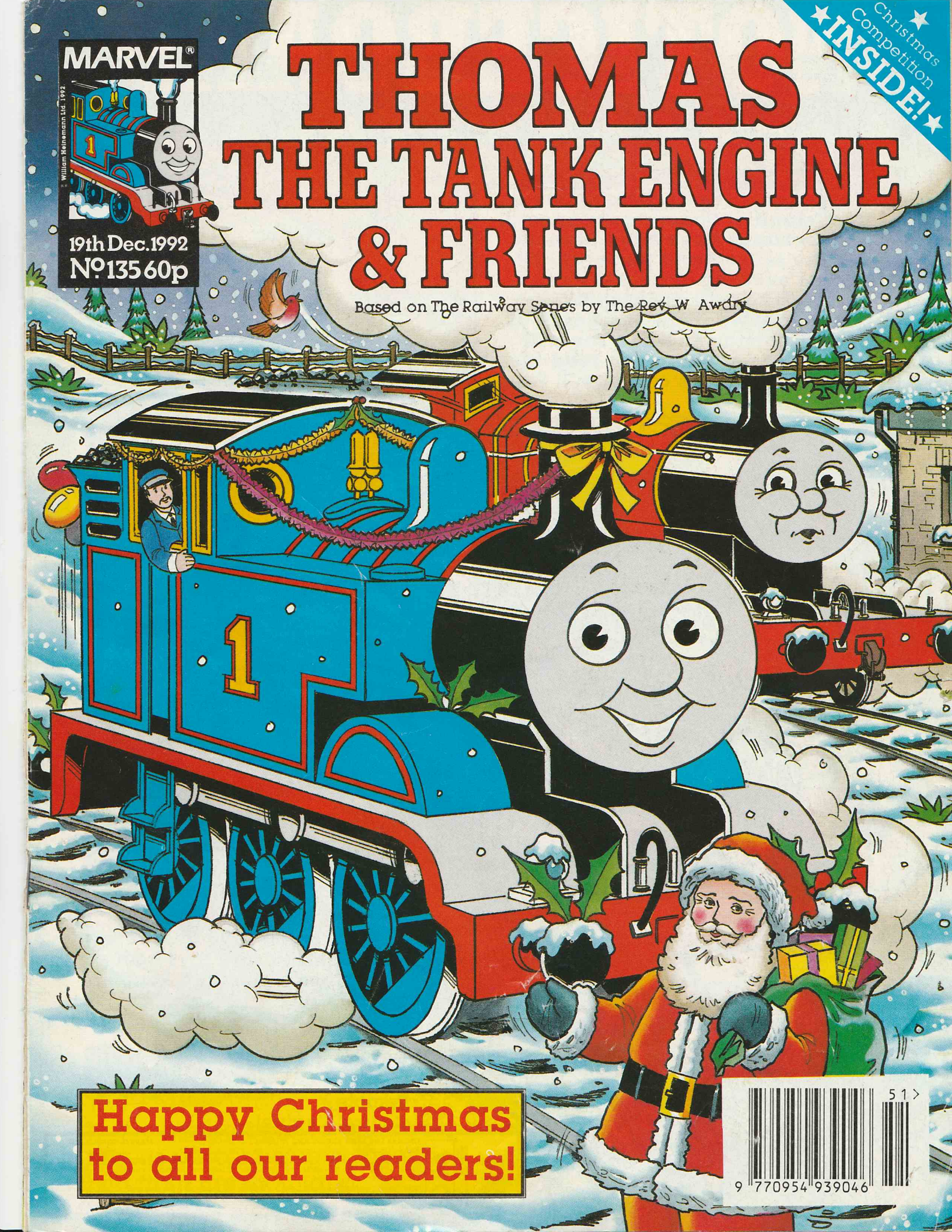
MARVEL®
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19th Dec. 1992
No 135 60p
Christmas Competition
INSIDE!
THOMAS
THE TANK ENGINE
& FRIENDS
Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W Awdry
1
Happy Christmas
to all our readers!
9 770954 939046 51>

NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! It's Christmas Day on the Island of Sodor! Many special celebrations have been planned for the season and there will be lots of exciting surprises for Thomas and all his friends. Can you guess who will be chosen as the Christmas Engine? You will soon find out when you read the story that begins on page 3! Peep! Peep!

OUR CHRISTMAS ISSUE!

Welcome to our **Christmas** issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends** fortnightly magazine. You will have the chance to win some fabulous new toys and games from *Living and Learning* (see above) when you turn to page **14**! You can also win next year's **Thomas Calendar** printed by *Judges Postcards Ltd* (see picture opposite) if you turn to page **7**. Good luck!

NEW YEAR ISSUE!

Why not begin 1993 by winning some fantastic new toys from *ERTL(UK)Ltd's* **Standard Range** of toys. You could be the lucky winner of a **Thomas Remote Control Engine!**

HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR FAT CONTROLLER'S CARD!

If you would like to receive your very own, splendid **Fat Controller's Card**, just send one **red**, **yellow** and **blue** token together with your details listed below (details need only be listed on any one of the 3 coloured tokens when applying for this offer) plus a stamped addressed envelope to: The Fat Controller's Card Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Postcode ..... **Age** ...

THOMAS TOKEN

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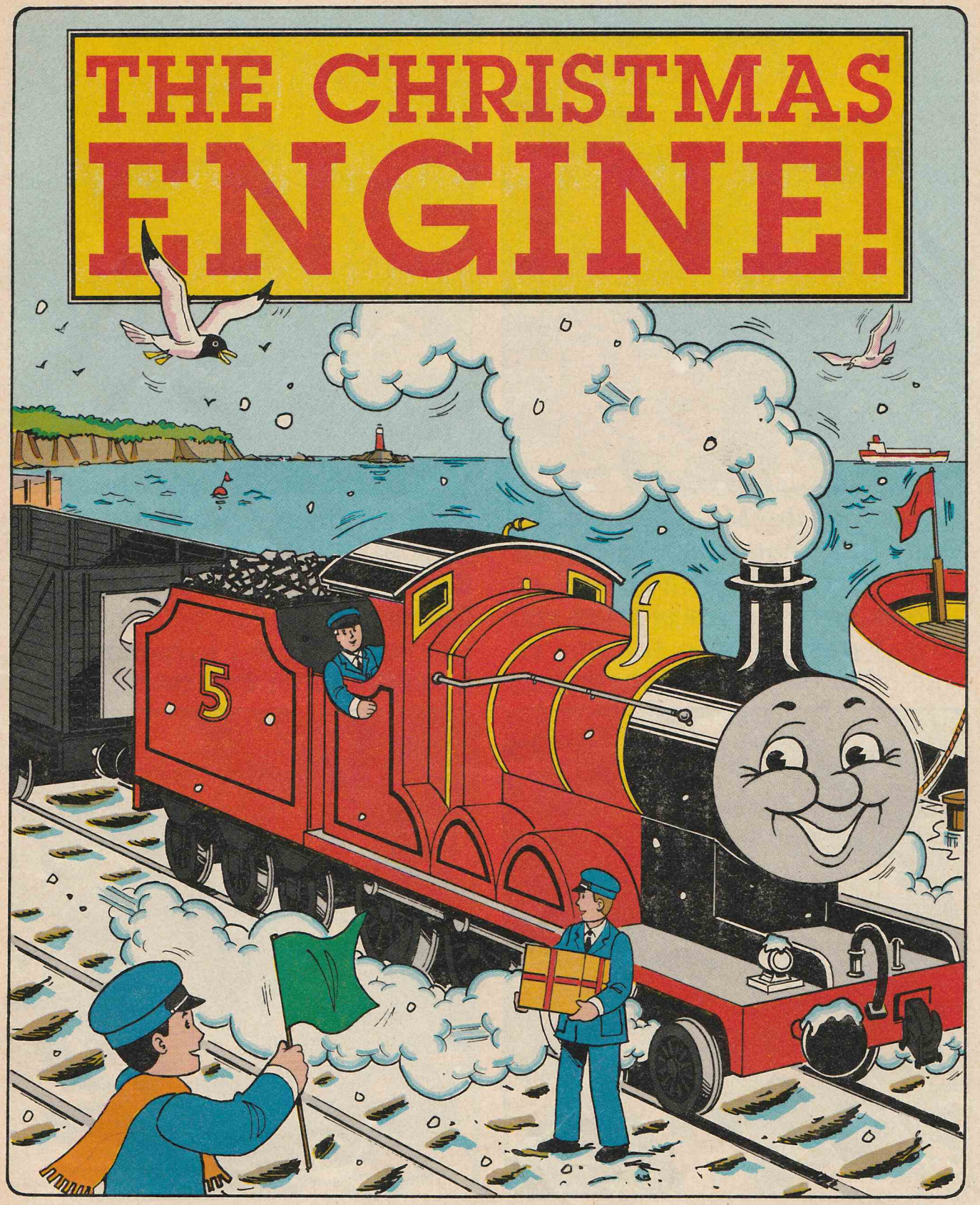
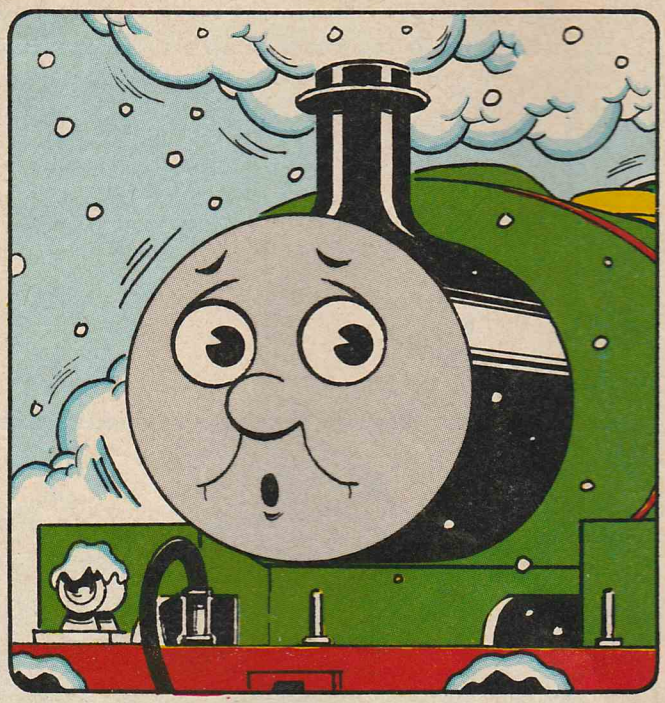
THE CHRISTMAS ENGINE!



1. It was Christmas Eve. The Fat Controller's railway was busy. The Fat Controller sent James to the Big Harbour to collect an urgent parcel being shipped to him from the mainland.

2. Thick snow lay across the track. James puffed hard to keep up speed on the slippery rails. At the harbour, the parcel was loaded into James's truck and he set off again.

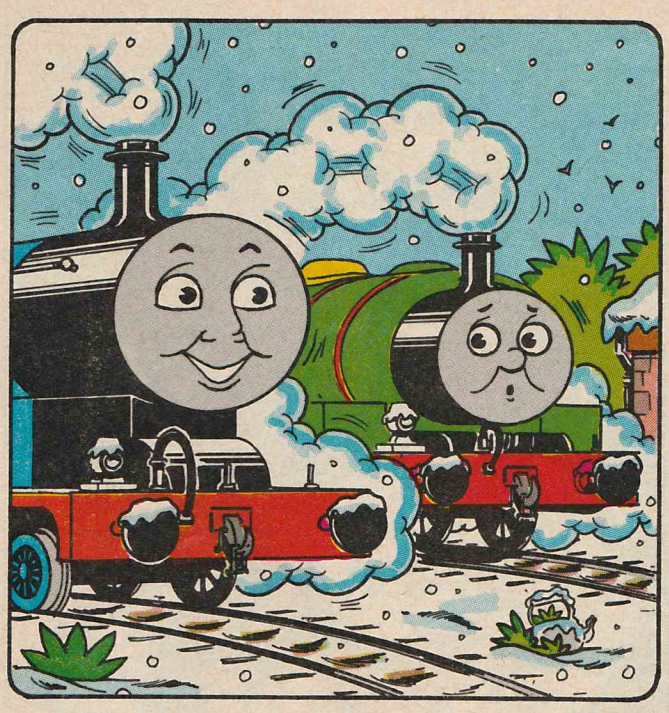
3. Back at the Main Station, the Fat Controller was waiting for him. "Well done!" he cried as James arrived. "I'm pleased you didn't get stuck in the snow!" The other engines overheard.



4. "I wonder what is in that parcel?" said Edward. "It's a Christmas present from Santa Claus!" teased Percy. "It must be special because I was chosen to fetch it!" James told them.

5. "Thank you very much indeed, James! I will now take this parcel to my office!" Before he left, the Fat Controller sent both Thomas and Percy into the yard.

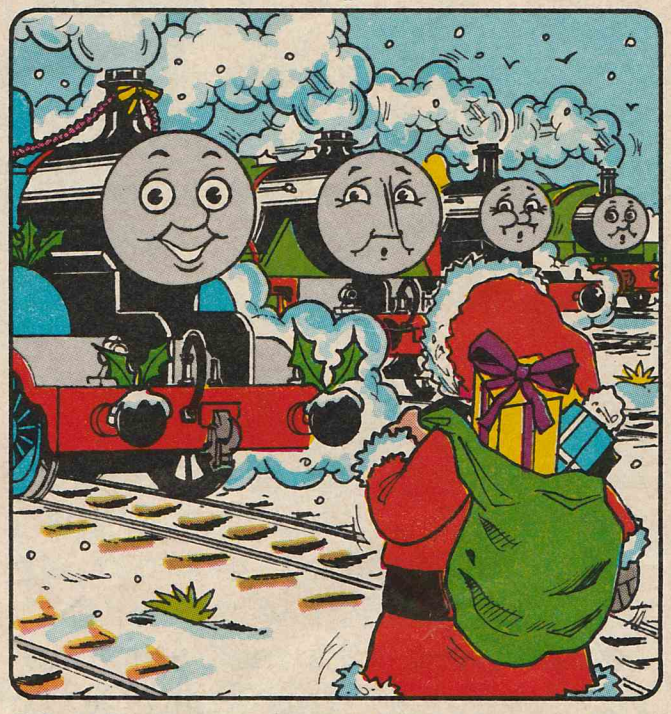
6. As he puffed past the Fat Controller's window, Percy stared in amazement. "Look!" he gasped. "What's the matter?" called Edward. "You look as if you've seen a ghost!"



7. "I just saw Santa in the Fat Controller's office!" replied Percy. "Pah! You can't fool me!" grinned Edward. "It's true!" added Percy. "Santa had a big white beard and a red suit!"

8. When Percy told the other engines, they laughed at him. "Are you teasing us?" sniffed James. "Santa is much too busy to come here. You and your silly stories, Percy!"

9. The engines were arguing as Thomas puffed out of the Works. Imagine their surprise when they saw he had sprigs of holly tied to his buffers and sparkling tinsel on his cab.



10. "Peep! Peep! Make way for the Christmas Engine!" Thomas whistled. There were bright balloons tied to him as well. Then, a colourful figure came marching across the yard.

11. "Ho! Ho! Ho!" he laughed loudly as he carried a sack on his shoulder. "There! I told you!" cried Percy. "It's Santa Claus!" The figure grinned and took off his beard which was made of cotton wool. "It's me!" said the Fat Controller. "This Santa Claus outfit was in the parcel James collected!" The Fat Controller explained that he was going to a Christmas party.

12. "It's being held for the children at Wellsworth School!" he said. The Fat Controller told his engines he was going to give out presents to the children. "I asked Thomas to take me!" he added. "You look grand, Thomas!" said James. "I'm a very splendid engine, but Thomas has shown that he can be both splendid and really useful at the same time!"

THE END!

In our next issue: The new year clock!

READER'S OFFER!

Look at this charming **Vintage Diecast model** ambulance! It has been produced to raise funds for the **Guy's Evelina Children's Hospital Appeal**. It will cost you **£5.99** (no extra charge for postage and packing) to buy a model ambulance and each one that we sell will guarantee a contribution of at least **50p** to the appeal by the manufacturer *LLEDO PLC*. You will also *Sponsor-a-cot* for almost a minute. If you are interested in *Sponsoring-a-cot* for longer please send your donation direct to the ***Appeals Office, Guy's Evelina Children's Hospital, St Thomas St, London, SE1 9RT***.

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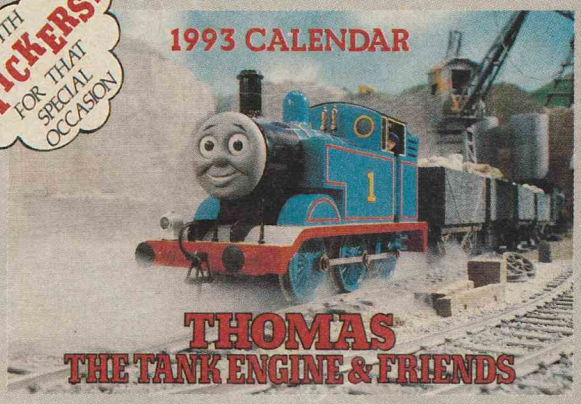
WIN A CALENDAR!



You could be the lucky winner of one of these fantastic **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends 1993 Calendars** (pictured opposite) printed by *Judges Postcards Ltd*. This colourful Calendar features 12 photographs, taken from the many stories and adventures of Thomas and all his friends. There is a large calendar grid for each month and a sheet of stickers for you to stick on the calendar to help you to remember important dates. All you have to do to win your own calendar is answer the following question: **What colour is Daisy?** Write your answer on a postcard and send your entries to *Thomas/Judges Calendars Offer, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2 3DX*. The first **25** correct entries to be drawn will win a calendar. If you are not lucky enough to win a calendar, you can purchase one in time for the new year from Judges! They only cost £5.00, which includes postage and packing. Send your cheques or postal orders, made payable to ***Judges postcards Ltd to: Judges postcards Ltd, 176 Bexhill Rd, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex TN38 8BN.***

Thomas and the Snowman!

One morning, near Christmas, it was snowing very hard on the Island of Sodor. The snow covered the rails and felt cold under Thomas's wheels. Thomas was pulling some trucks along his branch line. The snow covered the countryside. The wind drove the snowflakes on to his face, making it hard for him to see where he was going.

"Oh bother!" spluttered Thomas. "Snow may look splendid at Christmas time but it does not help busy engines, like me, to get along!"

As they passed a level-crossing, Thomas's driver peered out of his cab. Suddenly, a gust of snowy wind blew his cap off his head. It landed in the snow by a big tree. Thomas's driver quickly applied the brake and Thomas pulled up hard. The driver climbed down from Thomas's cab and ran back down to fetch his cap. The snow was falling so thickly, he could not find it.

"The snow has covered my cap already!" he told Thomas.

"If I wait here, I'll be buried in snow too!" called Thomas anxiously. "I'll get stuck!"

The driver climbed back into his cab and Thomas steamed on. He was very pleased to arrive safely at the Main Station yard.

"I'll have to bring my spare cap tomorrow!" said Thomas's driver. Next day, Thomas pulled more trucks along the branch line. It had stopped snowing but everywhere looked white and sparkling.

Thomas's driver wore his spare cap. When Thomas approached the level-crossing again, he saw a snowman standing by a tree. The snowman was wearing an engine driver's cap.

"Shovelling snowploughs! There's your cap!" Thomas

called to his driver. "I wonder how it got there?" Thomas stopped while his driver went to fetch the cap. Just then some children hurried towards him.

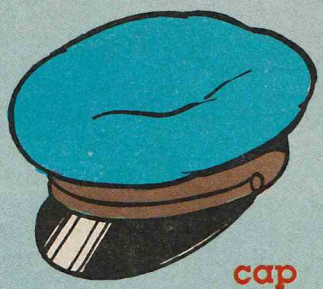
"We found the cap after the snowstorm yesterday, while we built our snowman!" they said. "We put the cap on him because we were sure Thomas would spot it as he went by!"

The engine driver thanked the children and Thomas puffed on his way. Later, at the Main Station, Thomas told the Fat Controller what had happened.

"Please, sir! It's a shame the children's snowman does not have a cap to wear now," he said.

Thomas's driver agreed.

"I'm afraid the cap is railway property," he added, "and I do need two in case I lose one again." The Fat Controller had an idea. He went to his office and began to search in a cupboard.



cap

"Ah! Here it is!" he said. He took out an old top hat. It was dusty and dented. The Fat Controller straightened the hat and brushed it.

Meanwhile, Thomas was coupled to his faithful carriages, Annie and Clarabel. When Thomas left the yard with the afternoon passenger train, the Fat Controller went in Annie.

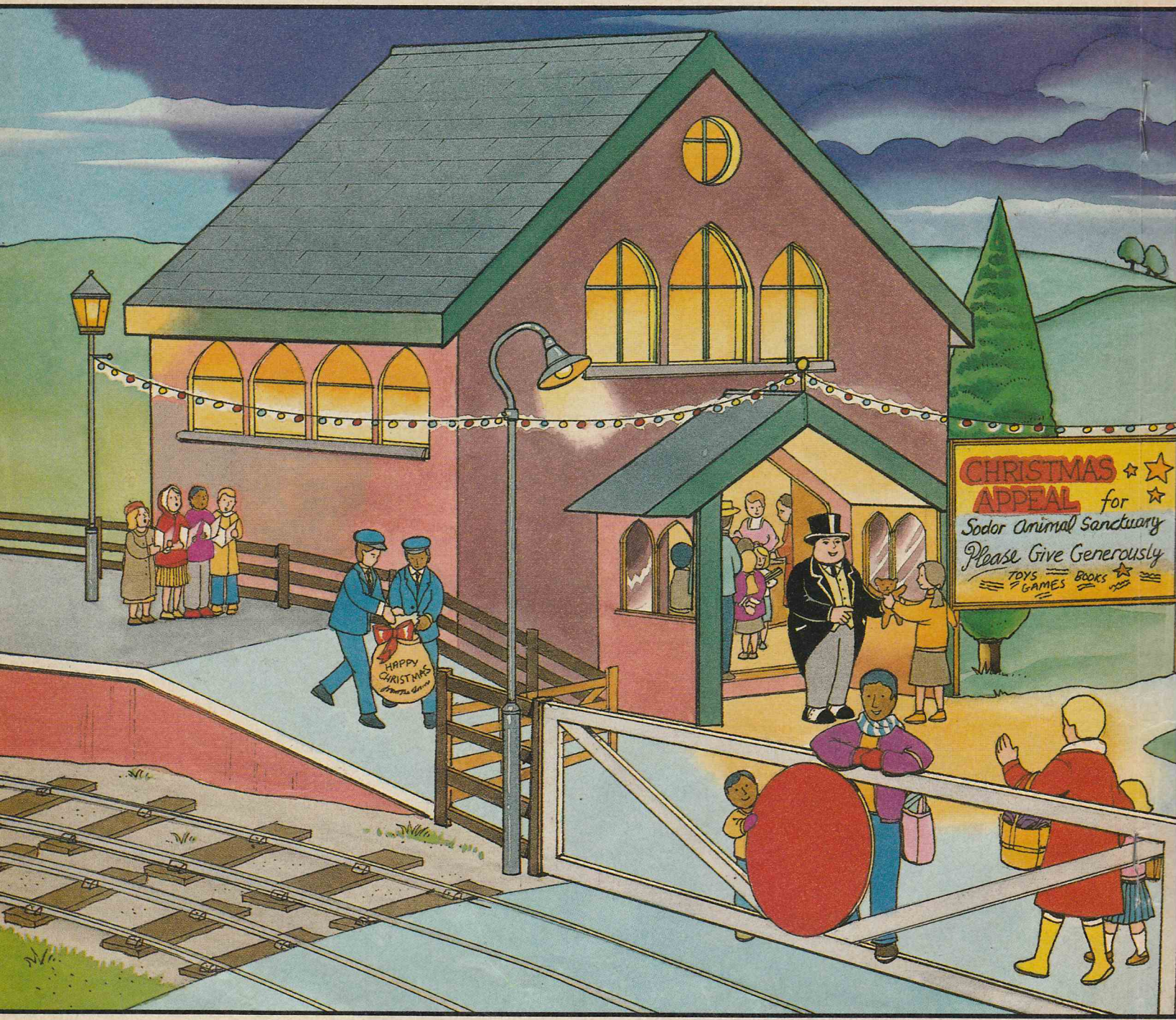
Thomas pulled up by the snowman and the Fat Controller gave the children his old top hat.

"You have all been so helpful, your snowman can wear this hat instead!" The children were very pleased. Everyone laughed. The snowman looked really grand!

"Imagine!" chuckled Thomas. "A snowman with a top hat is even smarter than one wearing an engine-driver's cap!"

THE END

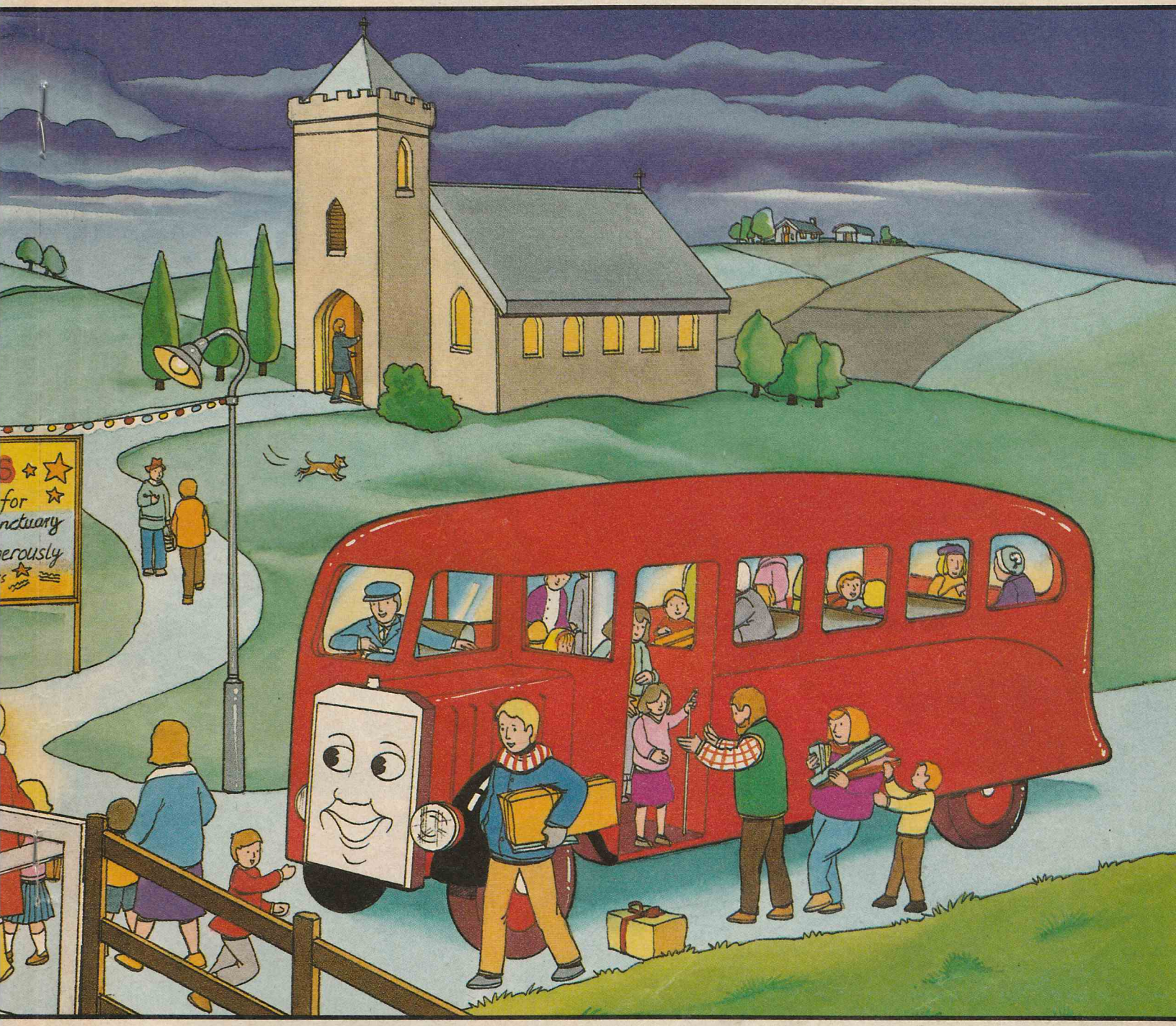
Stop by the cl



Look at Bertie the Bus!
What colour is he?
Where has he stopped?
What are his passengers carrying?

Point to the church hall!
Why are people offering t
Look at the big banner!
What does it say?

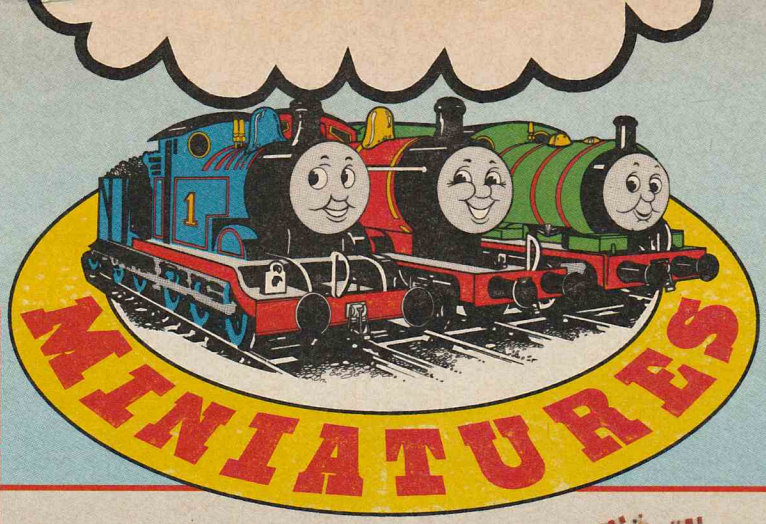
church hall!

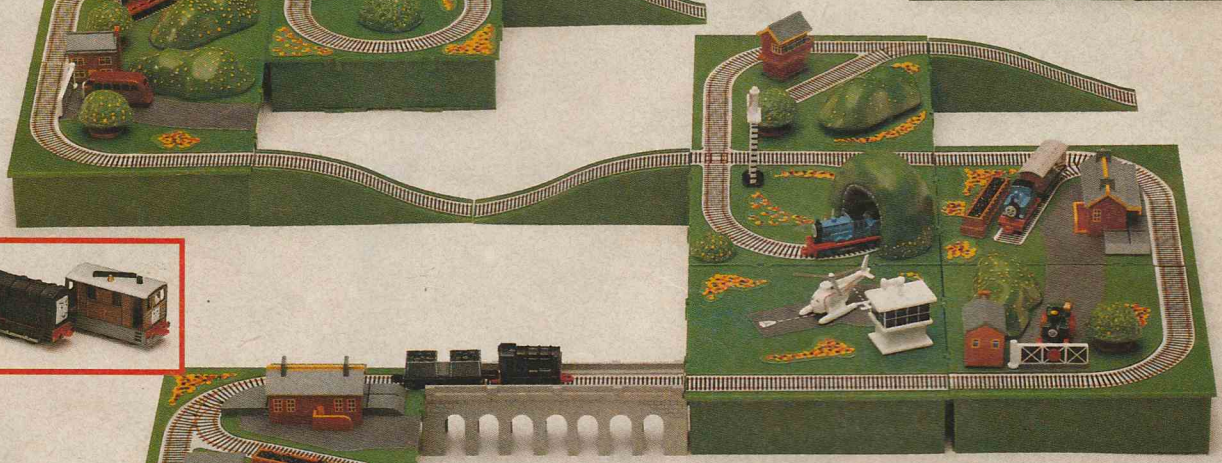


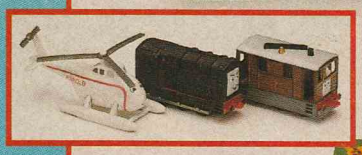
.all!
ring the Fat Controller presents?
er!

Note for parents
This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a **'mural page'** in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**. Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

In our next issue: Happy New Year!







Some of these products are only available during 1993

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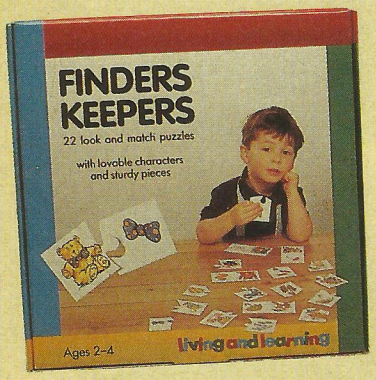
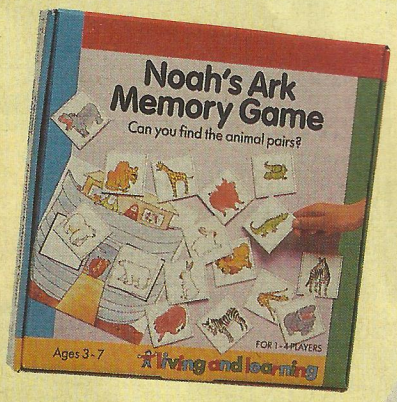
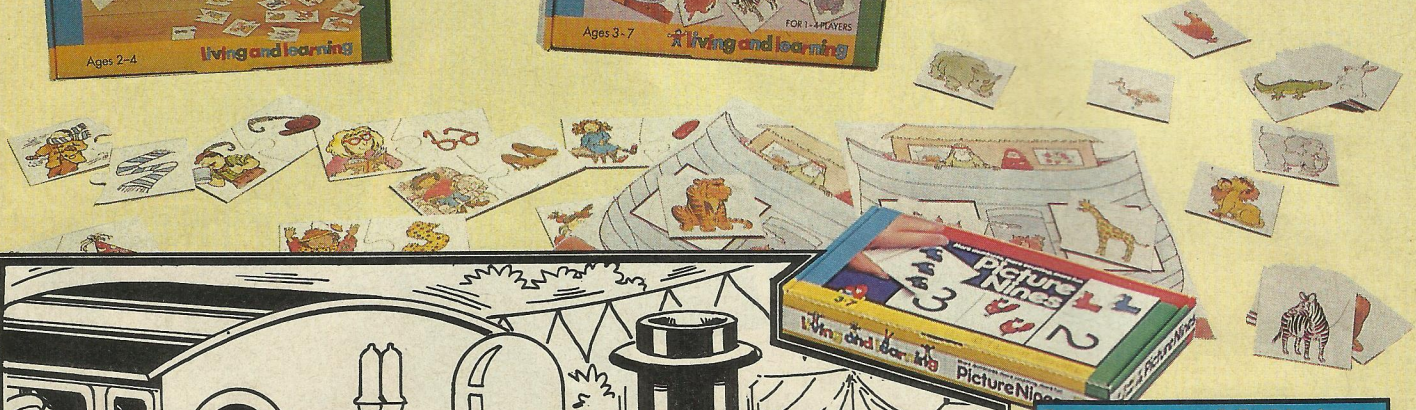


2nd prize: 35 Noah's Ark Memory games!





3rd prize: 35 Picture Nines Games!

Closing date: 7th January 1993!

How to enter:

All you have to do to win one of these fantastic prizes is take your brightest pens and colour the picture opposite then send this page to: ***Thomas/Living and Learning Colouring Competition c/o Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2 3DX.***

Name.....
Address.....
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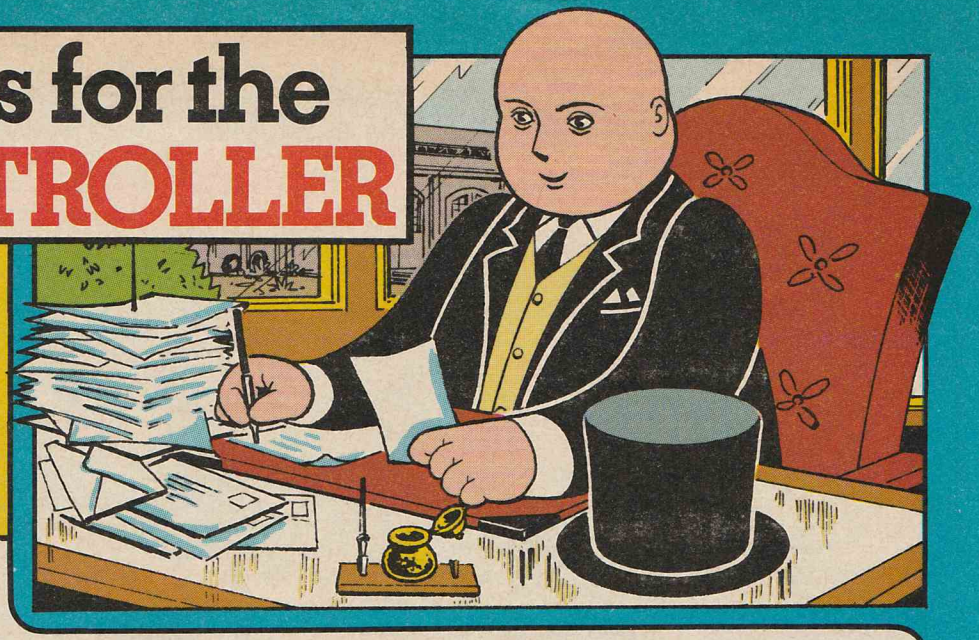
Rules; This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their relatives of living and learning, Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Ltd, and Marvel Comics Ltd. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



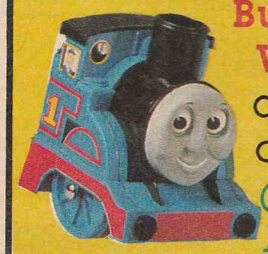
Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
My Grandpa took us on a steam train near Fort William when we were on holiday in Scotland. It was big and black like Douglas. On the way back, there was lots of black smoke from our engine and Diesel had to come and tow us back. It was really exciting!
Love from **Sam Triffit**, aged 3.

I do agree! Your adventure is almost as exciting as many of Thomas's own adventures on his branch line. I shall have to try and visit the Fort William line one day!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win this splendid **Thomas Bubble Walker** courtesy of *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*



SPECIAL JOURNEY!

Dear Fat Controller,
Last weekend, my mummy took me to visit our local train station where they had a special 'Thomas Weekend'. I had a ride on one of Edward's coaches and on our journey we saw Thomas, Bertie, Gordon and the troublesome trucks!
Love from **Christopher Waddington**, aged 2!

I must say! You were very lucky to meet Edward as he is one of the friendliest engines on my railway. It seems as though you had a very exciting and interesting journey!

CHRISTMAS PARTY!

Dear Fat Controller,
Will you be arranging a big party for all your friends this Christmas!
Love from **Jacob**, aged 7.

Yes! All of my engines and railway staff will be gathering for a party at Wellsworth Station on Christmas Eve. It should be really splendid!

BIRTHDAYS!

Daniel Marsh, Ian Ruffer (38671), James Puchey (33086), Richard James Mills, David Wilson, Brian Taylor (25127), Jayson Cullen, Nicholas Carter (190519), Marc Thompson (31235), Matthew Williams (18411), Timothy Chan, Jonathan Wolfish, Richard James Hitchcock (28706), Shaun Kitchener.

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a postcard at least nine weeks in advance!

Yours
Sir Topham Hatt
The Fat Controller!

Send your letters to:

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The Island of Sodor
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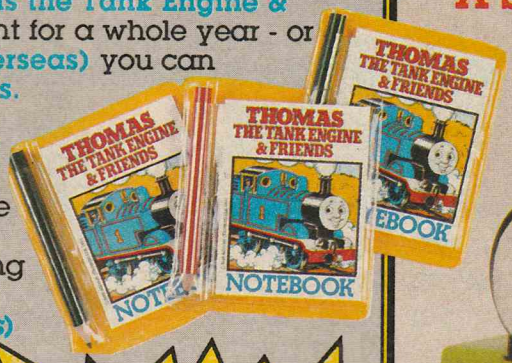

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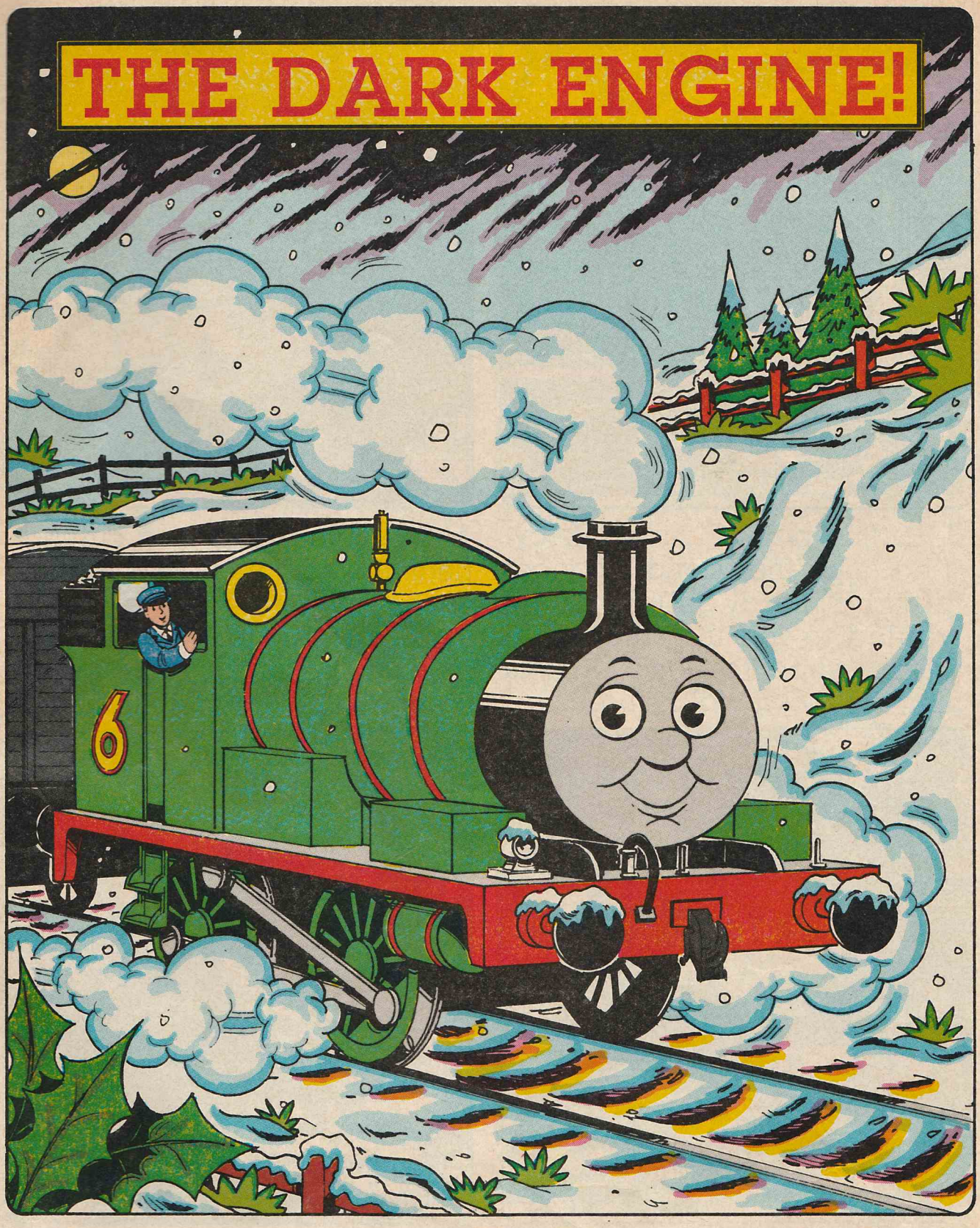
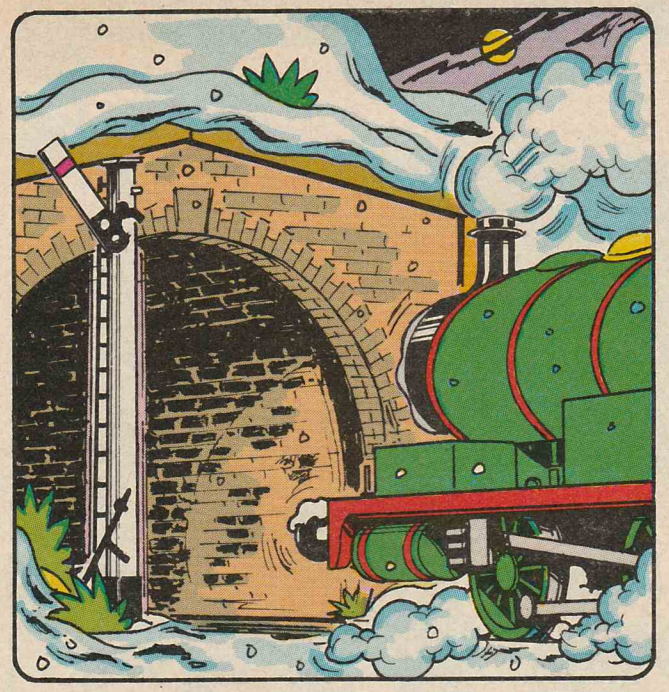
THE DARK ENGINE!



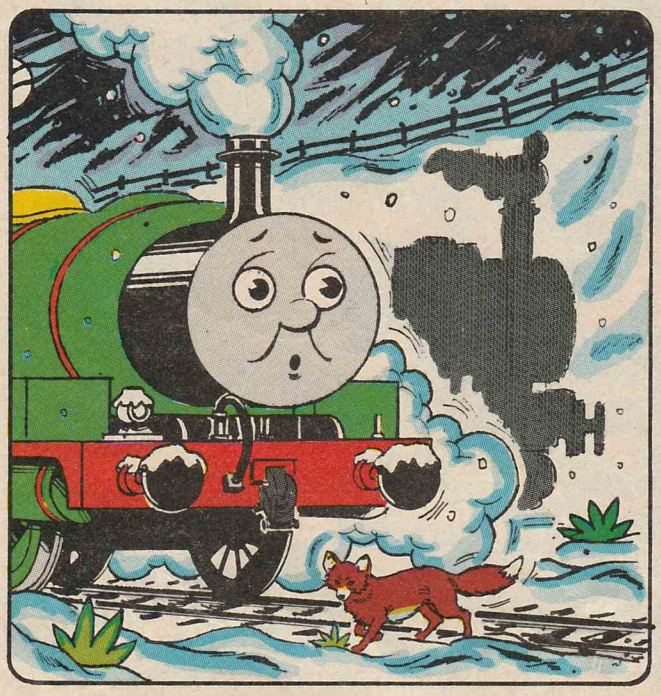
1. Christmas on the Island of Sodor was a very busy time for the Fat Controller's engines. They rushed up and down the lines, carrying all the extra goods, passengers and parcels.

2. The engines worked from dawn to dusk in the snowy weather. One evening, Percy was returning to the Main Station . The signal was pointing upwards so Percy stopped.



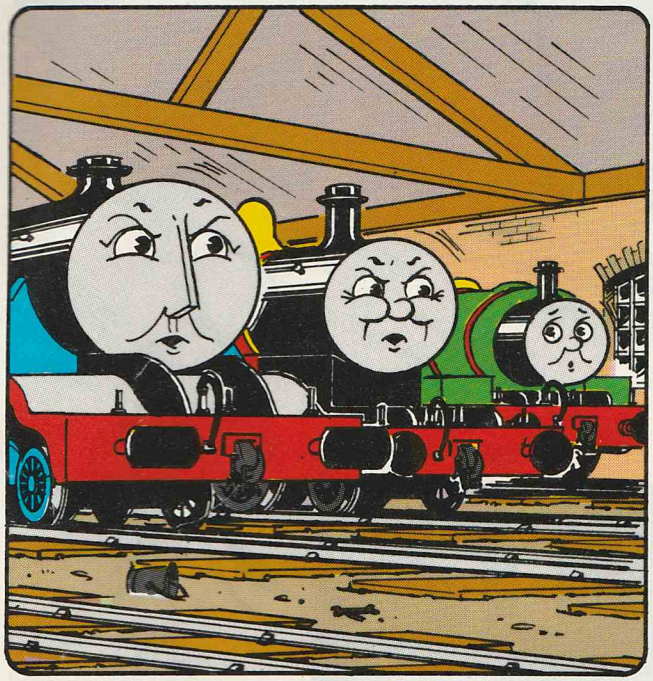
3."Puffing pistons!" hissed Percy. "I do hope that signal changes quickly!" Percy felt tired. He wanted to roll into the warm engine shed to sleep. Above him, the moon was rising.

4. The signal was in a cutting, near the entrance to a tunnel. Snow lay everywhere. Percy was grateful for the warmth from his boiler. "It's late for an engine to be outside!" he said.

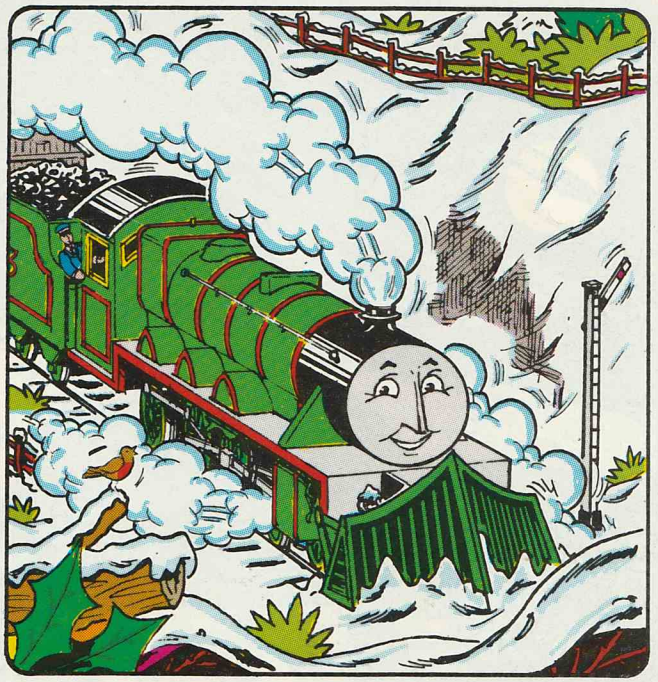


5. A fox darted past Percy and startled him. Further on, Percy saw a big, dark shape nearby. He could not believe his eyes. "It's another engine!" he cried. "Where did it come from?"

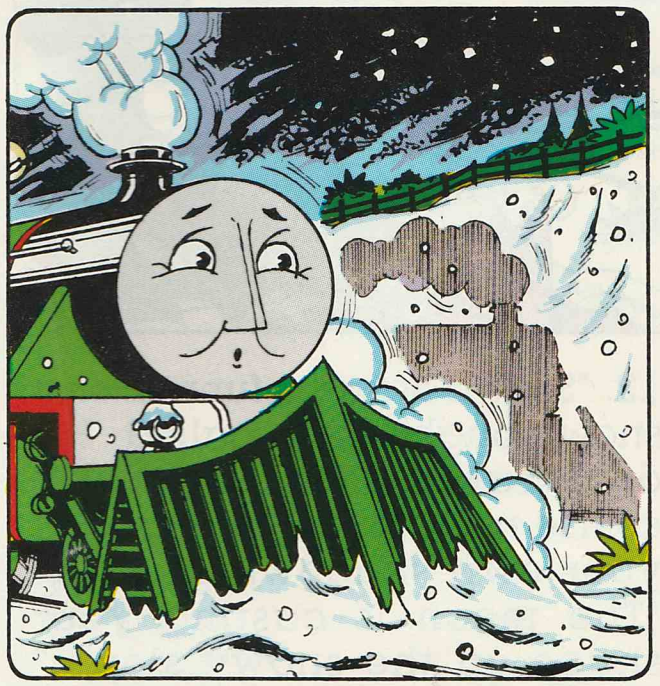
6.The engine stood silently, its tall funnel puffing wisps of smoke. The signal changed to go and Percy raced off. Later he told the other engines all about the dark engine.



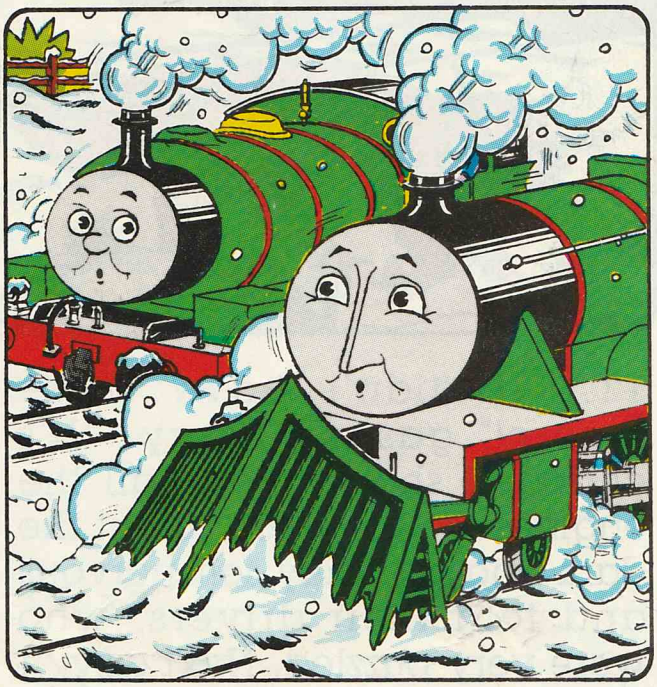
7. They did not believe Percy. "Rubbish!" huffed James. Gordon agreed. "Gah! You can't fool us, Percy!" he said. Next day, Henry was working late pulling a goods train.



8. It had snowed heavily and Henry was fitted with a snow-plough to clear the track as he went along. Henry waited at the tunnel, just like Percy had done, for the signal to change.



9. As the moon rose, Henry suddenly saw the dark engine. There it was, standing beside him. Henry was surprised that the other engine had a short funnel and a snowplough too!



10. Henry whistled to the engine but it did not reply. The signal changed and Henry sped away. At the yard, Henry told Percy all about the dark engine's short funnel and snowplough.

11. "It didn't have those before!" gasped Percy. "It's changed shape!" Soon all the engines were talking about the dark engine. They felt nervous and told their drivers, who were very puzzled. Next day, it was Boco's turn to work late. While Boco waited in the moonlight by the tunnel signal, the dark engine appeared again. Boco warned his driver.

12. "See? It hasn't a funnel or a snowplough!" Boco called. His driver saw the dark engine. "Of course not, Boco! That engine is your own shadow!" he said. "The moon is casting your shape on the snowy slope." When the other engines heard, they laughed. "Fancy us being scared of our shadows!" chuckled Percy. "We have all been very silly engines!"

THE END!

In our next issue: Thomas and Trevor!